major programmes would require around Rs. 50,000 crore investment in the country by 2012. The major contribution of around 90% is expected to come from private investment.

(e) Renewable energy can provide the basis for sustainable development on account of its inexhaustible nature and environment-friendly features and in the long-term would supplement conventional energy.

Protection to the Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant in flood situation

1383. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that floods have affected the production of power at the Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof with areas denied power due to stoppage of power production in the plant;

(c) the reasons why adequate steps were not taken to protect the plant in the wake of flood situation; and

(d) the steps taken to resume power production at the optimum level?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. However, the threat of an unprecedented flood affected the production of power at Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) During August, 2004, a massive landslide has created a 'dam' and blocked the river Pareechu, a tributary to Spiti/Satluj River in Tibet in China and formed an artificial lake. Bursting of this 'dam' could cause a flash flood in Satluj Valley. As a precautionary measure, a red alert for the safety of the people and the Project was declared by Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh. Generation was stopped for about ten days due to possibility of flash floods and high content of silt in the river waters. Approximately 491 MU of generation was lost. Power from Nathpa Jhakri Project is supplied to northern grid comprising the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi which were denied their share of power from Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Electric Project during this period.

(c) Adequate steps were taken to protect the plant in the wake of the flood alert situation. All the 5 radial gates on the dam were kept open and the pondage of the dam was kept to its natural flow. Water level in the dam pondage area was kept at lowest level of EL 1462 for absorbing heavy flood. All the Intake Gates of the 27.4 km long Head Race Tunnel were closed. All the six Draft Tube Gates were closed, all the gates at Tail Race Tunnel out fall were closed and all the six machines were shutdown.

(d) After ascertaining the factual position of the artificial lake on river Pareechu from various sources, the power production was re-started with effect from 17.08.2004 and gradually raised to the optimum level.

Proposal to fund hydro-power projects of State Governments

1384. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fund hydro-power projects launched by State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for specific financial help in a hydro power plant;

(c) if so, the details of this proposal;

(d) whether Government propose to give a boost to the generation of hydro-power by participating in joint ventures with various States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) are extending loan assistance to A.P. GENCO Ltd. for taking new Hydro Projects and renovation and modernization of existing Hydro Projects.

(b) and (c) The APGENCO have posed the 50 MW Nagarjuna Sagar Tail Pond Project to REC for funding assistance amounting to about Rs. 400 crores (90% of the project cost). Similarly, a proposal for extending